

Note: Please park on the street at the Fish and Game offices for Friday's meeting. Thanks!

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL
A WORKING GROUP OF THE
MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
299 Foam St
Monterey, California 93940

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RAP Meeting Agenda
Conference Room
Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, 20 Lower Ragsdale
RD., Monterey, CA

Friday, June 23, 1995, 0900 to 1200 hrs

NOTE: THIS AGENDA WAS DEVELOPED WITHOUT INPUT FROM THE
RAP CHAIR, AND HE MAY CONDUCT THE MEETING DIFFERENTLY
THEN THE AGENDA DESCRIBES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Introduction of Members and Participants

- a) Members Not Able to Attend:
- b) Meeting Member Substitutions:
- c) Guest Attendees:

List:

Greg Cailliet, MLML - RAP Chairman
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Terry Jackson, Manager, Monterey Bay NMS
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/ Monterey
Ken Parker, OAB
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Don Potts, UCSC
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Rick Starr, Univ. of CA, Sea Grant Advisory Program
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS
Jim Rote, CSUMB
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation

Approval of May 19, 1995, Meeting Minutes (Cailliet)

*Cambria Desalination Plant (Cotter)

Report on the June 2, 1995, SAC Retreat (Cailliet)

Introduction of Geof Wheat - Regional NURP Representative

Research Coordinator Status (King)

MBNMS/GFNMS/CBNMS Marine Researchers Guide (King)

Permit Report (King)

Electronic Communications Update (King)

Institutional Permit Status (King)

Next Monterey Bay Research Symposium (Parker/Starr)

Vessel Traffic Safety Report (King)

NOAA's Coastal Forecast System (Rote)

RAP/MBNMS Review of Research Proposals

In Review/Reviewed: USGS San Andreas Geodynamics

New Requests: None

Sound and the MBNMS - Letter (Wickum/Starr)

ATOC Update (King)

BREAK

DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Fort Ord Update (Cotter/Eittreim)

*Coordinating Regional Water Quality Monitoring (Price)

- 15 mins.

NOAA R/V McArthur (King)

- Future NOAA Ship Research Projects (Cailliet)

Additional MBNMS Marine Mammal Research Funds (King)

OTHER ITEMS

Other Old Business - Open

New Business - Open

Items for future meetings - Monterey Academy of Oceanography, ????

ADJOURN

* Request made by Cotter and Price to present these early in the morning so they can go to another meeting.

** Dr. Lashkari has been invited to speak to the RAP at the July meeting on a Sanctuary acoustic study he is working on.

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Research Activity Panel Draft Meeting Minutes
California Department of Fish and Game
Friday, June 23, 1995
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting arrangements made by:

Aaron King, Monterey Bay NMS - RAP Executive Coordinator

Members in attendance were:

Greg Cailliet, RAP Chair, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Ken Parker, NOAA Ocean Applications Branch
Rick Starr, University of California, Sea Grant
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation
Jim Rote, California State University Monterey Bay/NOAA
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/Monterey
Mark Stephensen, CA DFG/Monterey
Jan Roletto, GFNMS
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Don Potts, UCSC

Special Guests in attendance included:

Aaron King, MBNMS
Jack Wickham, Conservation Working Group
John Brookes, "Westlands" Company
Patrick Cotter, MBNMS/CCC
Holly Price, MBNMS
Geoff Wheat, NURP
Thomas J. Neal, PSRF
Rachel Saunders, CMC

Research Activity Panel members not in attendance:

Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Terry Jackson, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation
Bruce Robinson, MBARI
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 19, 1995 MEETING MINUTES (Cailliet)

The minutes were approved as amended.

III. QUICK DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Introduction of Geoff Wheat - Regional NURP Representative (Cailliet)-- Geoff Wheat will have an office at MBARI, Moss Landing, and will be responsible for informing researchers in the coastal states about funds available from the NURP program. The 1996 guidelines are available. If you are interested in receiving a copy of them, or are not currently on the mailing list, please contact Geoff at 633-7033 or wheat@mbari.org.

Proposals are due by September 1, 1995 for any kind of undersea research. Proposals will go through peer review and candidates should be notified by early December if their proposal was accepted. Geoff was asked to provide feedback on whether or not RAP endorsement of projects makes a difference in the selection process.

With respect to the future of the NURP program given the threatened budget cuts by Congress, Geoff indicated that if NURP were not to survive, there is money already allotted for three projects in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. As RAP support will be helpful in obtaining the revenues, Geoff will keep the working group informed about status and deadlines.

RAP members also requested that Geoff provide an updated list of NURP equipment inventory that may be available for use by scientists. Geoff will bring the list to the next meeting.

Discussion concerning the acceptance of a NURP representative as a RAP member ensued following a suggestion by the Chair. The issue will be placed on the July meeting agenda.

B. Cambria Desalination Plant (Cotter)-- Pat Cotter, a water quality specialist for the MBNMS and the CA Coastal Commission, opened discussion on the proposed desalination plant in Cambria. Cotter expressed concern that the desalination plant was the first proposed discharger into the Sanctuary since its designation in 1992, and that the plant could set a precedent for future projects. Moreover, there were some discrepancies concerning the Final Environmental Impact Statement and questions about whether proper procedures were applied. The RAP appointed a Committee composed of Jim Rote -- who will act as Chair-- Debra Johnston, and Laura Ehret to help Pat Cotter investigate the project. RAP members also suggested that the following individuals be invited to participate on the Committee:

- Mike Foster (Jim Harvey volunteered to call him);
- NMFS Tiburon Lab (ask Alan McCall, Director of the Lab, who would be best);
- Chris Harrold;
- Dick Zimmerman;
- a PFEG representative; and,
- a representative from Hopkins Marine Station

Jim Rote will be responsible for calling the suggested individuals. The committee will report to the RAP at the July meeting and will be requested to provide input to the CCC by end of July/early August.

C. Fort Ord Update (Cotter/Eittreim)-- The Army has responded positively to proposals from the Sanctuary and is interested in performing side-scan swathing and other research in the marine environment off of the former military base. Financial specifics are still being decided. Thanks to the RAP for all of their support and help achieving the Army support.

D. Coordinating Regional Water Quality Monitoring (Price)-- Holly Price, Director of the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP), presented an update on the program.

The WQPP has defined ten strategies that the program is moving ahead with. Holly described one of the strategies --Coordinating Regional Efforts -- in greater detail as it coincides with the RAP charter and goals.

She also mentioned that the WQPP would be working with the EPA which had previously allotted \$40,000 for water quality. The funds will be used as part of the coordinated strategies. A consulting firm, Tetra Tech, has been hired by the EPA to manage the revenues. RAP members are encouraged to provide suggestions on how the \$40,000 should be used. Contact Holly Price at 647-4247 with your comments.

After some consideration of whether or not to invite Tetra Tech to the July meeting, RAP members chose instead to request another update from the WQPP in August or Sept.

Steve Eittreim volunteered to help bring USGS on-line in the coordination effort using some of the work that has already been accomplished.

Andrew DeVogelaere announced that, beginning Saturday, June 24, the Elkhorn Slough NERR will implement a national water quality monitoring program. The data will be available via the internet system.

RAP members were invited to make suggestions and comments on the strategies and the WQPP materials provided at the meeting. Documents provided were: Initial Assessment of Existing Water Quality Monitoring Efforts in the Monterey Bay Region, May 1995; and Coordinated Regional Monitoring. Please provide your comments to Holly at 647-4247.

RAP members suggested that graduate students from the marine science programs in the area be utilized for the WQPP.

E. Report on the June 2 Sanctuary Advisory Council Retreat (Cailliet)-- Greg reported that the Retreat was a productive meeting in that it brought everyone up to the same level of understanding and helped to focus activity pro-actively rather than reactively. Highlights of the session included: 1) a description of the MBNMS local structure and mandate (RAP members requested a copy of the MBNMS structure and flow chart); 2) an explanation of the levels of authority and decision making within the NOAA as it relates to the MBNMS; 3) a discussion of major goals and objectives of the Sanctuary program; and, 4) the beginning of written Sanctuary Advisory Council protocols for action. The group decided to

meet again for a half-day session to formalize the protocols and discuss further the roles of the working groups.

The Council's Strategic Planning Committee, of which Greg is a member, will meet in mid-July to complete an action plan. Greg will forward information to the RAP as it becomes available.

F. Research Coordinator Status (King) -- Aaron King described the selection process and its current status. It is hoped that an individual will be in place by August.

Following discussion, RAP members decided to request that Jan Roletto be added as a member, or at least an advisor, to the selection evaluation board.

G. Marine Researchers Guide (King) -- Lisa Utall from Save Our Shores has been updating the database and will put the information on the website at the Sanctuary office.

The Sanctuary doesn't have an internet address at this time, but the webpage is accessible at: <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov>.

Information has yet to be submitted by Hopkins Marine Station, UCSC, Dept. of Interior, GFNMS/CBNMS, Morro Bay Foundation, California State University - Monterey Bay, and NURP. Please send the requested data as quickly as possible to Aaron King.

H. Electronic Communications Update (King)-- the Sanctuary will inform RAP members when its e-mail capabilities are operative.

I. Permit Report (King)-- RAP members were presented with a summary of the Permit Report. Contact Scott Kathey for more information.

J. Institutional Permit Status (King)-- nothing new to report. Greg will bring the issue up at the next Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting and request follow-up action.

K. Research Symposium (Parker/Starr)- the date for the Symposium has been confirmed for March 8-9, 1996 at a place to be determined. As the originally proposed "Ricketts" speaker, Roy Gordon, declined the invitation, planners are welcoming suggestions for a speaker. RAP members should forward their nominations to Rick Starr and Ken Parker by June 30.

The agenda continues to develop and a tentative schedule exists as drafted by AMBAG.

Discussion stressed the original research focus of this event and considered the new emphasis of the symposium as a collaborative effort of the three working groups -- research, education, and conservation. The first symposium will still be a single event and will focus on research.

The Conservation and Education working groups had two recommendations: 1) the keynote speaker should be someone who will draw a broad audience; and 2) to avoid compartmentalizing people at the conference in the different workshops.

L. Vessel Traffic Safety Report -- the document is not yet ready for public release, but is reportedly working its way up through the Department of Commerce and Transportation for signatures.

M. NOAA's Coastal Forecast System -- an Executive summary of the proposal was provided at the meeting. RAP members who would like to learn more about it are encouraged to contact Jim Rote or Aaron King. The Chair requested that Laura Ehret be responsible for following the proposal and informing the RAP and the sanctuary office about potential funds that may be available through Scripps.

An RFP can be expected in the near future.

N. RAP/ MBNMS Review of Research Proposals :

- In Review/Reviewed: USGS San Andreas Geodynamics -- nothing new to report on this since the last meeting;
- New Requests -- nothing new;

O. Sound in the Sanctuary -- Rachel Saunders, Chair of the Conservation Working Group, presented a revised draft memorandum addressed to the SAC requesting that efforts be made to better understand the effects of sound in the sanctuary. The letter has already been endorsed by the Conservation Working Group and the Sanctuary Education Panel.

Following a brief discussion, RAP members approved the memo as amended.

P. ATOC Update (King)-- The California Coastal Commission approved the project. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, June 27 to discuss the status of necessary permits. RAP members suggested that the permitting agencies provide letters to funding agencies stating that a permit will be issued but can't be done by 27 June deadline so that ATOC doesn't lose its funding.

FYI:

- There will be a Fisheries representative on the ATOC panel;
- Francesca Cava, former Sanctuaries and Reserves Division Chief, is now an alternate California Coastal Commissioner. We look forward to working with her in this capacity on Sanctuary related matters;

Q. NOAA McArthur Cruise Report (King)-- Aaron is working to complete the cruise report and he would like to have it ready for the July RAP meeting. Included in the report will be some evaluation of the projects and an estimated value of the research. RAP members who have not yet turned in their reports are asked to do so as quickly as possible. Panel members are also encouraged to write to NOAA in support of future cruises.

With respect to the McArthur cruise, the RAP discussed the need to institute a process for securing ship time next year. There were 26 ship days used in 1995, and, depending on projects, more or less time could be requested for 1996. Rick Starr suggested that scientists assume there will be adequate ship time and prepare proposals in advance so that when time is awarded, the research community will be properly prepared. Contact Aaron King at 647-4257 with additional comments for streamlining the process.

R. Additional MBNMS Marine Mammal Research Funds (King)-- funds have been allotted for Marine Mammal Research in the MBNMS. A Broad Agency Announcement

describing the specifics is attached. RAP members are encouraged to help review submitted proposals and provide recommendations for funding. Researchers responding to the announcement should be required to verbally present their results if funding is granted. Multi-institutional projects are desirable and scientists are encouraged to include university students. An update on the funds will be included in the July agenda.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- RAP members requested that the MBNMS research budget recommendation process include an evaluation process for next year. Scientists receiving funds from the RAP should be required to give a presentation to the RAP describing the progress and results of their work.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- On September 13, 1995 the GFNMS/CBNMS will host the Third Biennial Workshop on Current Research in the Gulf of the Farallones. The event is open to all researchers working on projects taking place within and around the GFNMS/CBNMS and surrounding areas. Contact Jan Roletto at (415)556-2587 for more information. The workshop is hosted once every other year and is open to a wide variety of science;
- The 1996 NERR RFP is available and will focus on habitat restoration. Only one year proposals will be accepted and grants typically run \$40 - 50,000. Contact Andrew DeVogelaere at: devog@mlml.calstate.edu or 728-2822;
- A SeaTechnology article by Gary Griggs did a good job pin-pointing the many institutions studying marine science in the Monterey area.

The next meeting of the Research Activity Panel is on Friday, July 21 at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 12: 20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
SAC Coordinator

enc: Broad Agency Announcement - Marine Mammal Studies in the Central California National Marine Sanctuaries